FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO FINAL RULE REDUCING TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to amend its rule to reduce toxic air pollutants from portland cement manufacturing plants. These amendments will improve the implementation of the existing requirements for these facilities by clarifying which emission sources are affected by the rule and by clarifying some of the testing and monitoring requirements.

- Today's amendments would not change the health and environmental effects of the rule, and they will not change the requirement that new and existing major sources control air toxics emissions.

BACKGROUND

- EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 air toxics listed in the Clean Air Act. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. Air toxics are emitted during the portland cement manufacturing process.

- EPA included portland cement manufacturing in its list of industries that are major sources of air toxics. "Major" sources are those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of air toxics. For listed categories of major sources, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology.

- EPA issued its final air toxics rule for portland cement manufacturing in June 1999. That rule requires the application of maximum achievable control technology for approximately 110 portland cement plants. However, certain requirements of the rule also apply to lower emitting "area source" portland cement plants as well.

- Portland cement manufacturing is an energy intensive process in which cement is made by grinding and heating a mixture of raw materials such as limestone, clay, sand, and iron ore in a rotary kiln. The kiln is a large furnace that is fueled by coal, oil, gas, coke and/or various waste materials. The product (called clinker) from the kiln is cooled, ground, and then mixed with a small amount of gypsum to produce portland cement.

- The main source of air toxics emissions from a portland cement plant is the kiln. Emissions

originate from the burning of fuels and heating of feed materials. Air toxics are also emitted from the grinding, cooling, and materials handling steps in the manufacturing process.

- The existing final rule is expected to reduce air toxics emissions by 90 tons per year -- a 31 percent reduction from 1999 levels. It also reduces particulate matter and volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).

- On April 5, 2002, EPA published a direct final rule and parallel proposal to amend specific requirements of the existing final rule. This action included several amendments to the final rule.

- EPA received adverse comment on seven of the amendments, and on July 2, 2002, published a notice to withdraw those amendments. The amendments for which EPA did not receive adverse comment became effective on July 5, 2002. Today's action is the final rule which addresses the comments on the withdrawn (i.e., proposed) provisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For further information about the proposal, contact Joseph Wood of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5446.

- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: http://www.epa.gov/oar/.